

REMARKS

The Applicants' attorney, Mr. Guo, had a telephone interview with the Examiner, Ms. Zalukaeva on September 22, 2003. The Examiner has agreed during the interview 1) to enter the above claim amendment and 2) to withdraw the anticipation rejection of claims 1-5, 7 and 9 over U.S. Pat. No. 5,310,813 ("*Nagasawa*"). The Examiner has acknowledged during the interview that *Nagasawa* teaches only a semi-batch process and that it cannot anticipate the claimed continuous process.

The Examiner indicated during the telephone interview that Applicants' Notice of Appeal would be unnecessary due to the Examiner's withdrawing the pending rejections from the Final Office Action of June 27, 2003.

During the telephone interview, the Examiner and the Applicants' attorney also discussed whether Applicants' claims 1-5, 7 and 9 are obvious in view of *Nagasawa*. Applicants had urged the Examiner during the telephone interview to review Applicants' Example 1 (Continuous process) and Comparative Example 3 (semi-batch process). These examples show that the comb-branched copolymer made by the invention (Example 1) gives considerably higher cement slump (124 mm) than the semi-batch process (Comparative Example 3, slump: only 96 mm). *See also Table 1 of the application.* These results are truly unexpected.

In contrast, *Nagasawa* neither teaches nor suggests any continuous process for making comb-branched copolymers. Further, *Nagasawa* neither teaches nor suggests that a continuous process can improve the cement slump property of the comb-branched copolymer. Hence, *Nagasawa* cannot make the claimed invention obvious.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully ask the Examiner to withdraw the rejection and to allow claims 1-5, 7, and 9. Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone their attorney, Mr. Shao Guo, at (610) 359-6059, if a discussion of the application might be helpful.

Respectfully submitted,
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